

**Minutes of CRASC Meeting  
USFWS Regional Office  
Hadley, Massachusetts  
December 20, 2000**

**1. Call to Order, Determination of Quorum, Approval of Today's Agenda**

Chair Duncan McInnes called the meeting to order at 11:10 a.m. All attending the meeting introduced themselves. A quorum was present.

**2. Discussion on CRASC Congressional Presentation for January Briefing**

Chair McInnes lead a discussion on the briefing:

Washington briefings generally open with a very brief overview explaining the purpose of the briefing and who is participating with introductions. The Commissioner designated with speaking should be prepared to do this though the host Congressionals may do the introductions.

The Commissioners were dissatisfied with the draft briefing developed by the Technical Committee and charged the Committee with revising the Power Point briefing and providing a narrative for the speaker. Points to be emphasized include:

- CRASC is making this recommendation so that CRASC can achieve goals in the Plan
- CRASC cannot maintain the effort without new funding
- Problem is USFWS positions have been cut - we need to restore these and build on this to meet existing commitments
- This is about more than salmon - whatever we do benefits other species & the whole system
- Promote the partnership concept
- Salmon are the flagship indicator species - take credit where salmon have driven water quality improvement efforts in CT & MA
- Emphasize benefits, not activities
  - Additional opportunities for recreational fishing; for every \$1 spent fishing there is a significant benefit to the economy
  - Wildlife watching
  - Fish ladders generate tremendous public interest

They provided the following guidance:

- Consolidate & reduce the number of slides but provide more detailed back-up in writing
- Use a photo instead of words whenever appropriate
- Make the slides visually attractive and make the key points bold
- Identify key contact people
- A one-page summary describing the history of CRASC/Compact/Re-authorization
- Provide briefing papers for each agency utilizing the USFS template
- Make a slide that lists major NGOs by name
- The new slides should address
  - History
  - Accomplishments
  - Benefits
  - What we want - how much - say it up front:
    - Restore USFWS capabilities/funding
    - Enhance Program & infrastructure
    - Re-authorize the Compact
  - Identify consequence of no action (no new funds) - cannot maintain effort, give specific examples, impact to CRASC achieving goals in Plan
  - Identify expected benefits of new funding
  - Next step
    - Describe how we want the new funds allocated
    - Ask for re-authorization of the Compact, as written

The Commissioners agreed that the Congressionals should receive copies of this briefing in advance.

The Commissioners agreed that the USFWS would conduct an internal briefing while the State Commissioners spoke with their Congressionals to generate support prior to the meeting.

Mr. Jay McMenemy agreed to draft the revisions and Mr. Rick Jacobson agreed to format the changes. Available Technical Committee members will meet January 3, 2001 at 9:30 a.m. in the Connecticut River Coordinator's Office to finalize the revisions.

### **3. Discussion on Revision and Re-authorization of Compact**

The Commissioners agreed to recommend re-authorization of the Compact as it is currently written. They agreed that it was important to demonstrate that without additional funding, the CRASC would be unable to accomplish the objectives outlined in the Strategic Plan. There was some discussion whether re-authorization would matter without additional funding.

### **4. Other Business**

The Commissioners agreed to the participant list identified at the Technical Committee meeting and added Jim Carroll from the Connecticut River Salmon Association to the list.

Logistics of getting people to Washington were discussed briefly. The CRASC has funds available for travel. Dr. Jaime Geiger agreed to see if the Federal airline fares could be made available to the States for this trip.

CRASC is hosting a Research Forum on January 25, 2001 in Hadley, MA. Pre-Registration is required.

An egg production summary was provided.

## **5. Next CRASC Meeting Date**

Future meeting dates for the Commission were scheduled for March 1, 2001 and October 25, 2001. Meetings will begin at 10 a.m. in the Conte Anadromous Fish Research Center in Turners Falls, MA.

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 p.m.

**CRASC MEETING  
December 20, 2000  
Hadley, MA**

**PARTICIPANT LIST**

Name	Organization
Angelo Incerpi	CRASC - VTFW
Peter Basta	VTFW
Jay McMenemy	VTFW
Charlie Thoits	CRASC NH Public Commissioner
Duncan McInnes	CRASC - NHFG
John Warner	USFWS - New England Field Office
Mamie Parker	USFWS
Wayne MacCallum	CRASC - MAFW
Janice Rowan	USFWS - CT River Coordinator's Office
Phil Herzig	USFWS - Sunderland OFA
Steve Rideout	USGS - Conte Anadromous FRC
Tom Maloney	CT River Watershed Council
Dan Call	Westfield River Watershed Association
Bob Stira	Northeast Utilities
Jaime Geiger	USFWS - RO
Dan Kuzmeskus	USFWS - RO
Ron Howey	USFWS - RO
Paul Pajak	USFWS - RO
Tom Menard	CRASC MA Public Commissioner
Caleb Slater	MAFW
Ed Parker	CRASC - CTDNR
Rick Jacobson	CTDEP
Jim Carroll	CT River Salmon Association
Bob Jones	CRASC CT Public Commissioner